



Teachers Are Our Heroes!

National Education Week – 2005 Teacher Support Project

November 13-19, 2005

Who was your favorite teacher and why? Did a particular teacher positively influence your life and if so, who and how?

Constitutional Officers



Mark Sanford
Governor

"Greetings. On behalf of South Carolina, I am pleased to join you in celebrating National Education Week through 'Teachers: Moving South

Carolina to the Top.' Good teachers can make all the difference in student performance and attitude by providing an atmosphere that encourages students to excel. When I look back on my own education, I still remember fondly Mrs. Lillian Spears, one of my teachers at Beaufort High School. By expecting nothing less than the highest standards of excellence, she helped prepare me and many others for the challenges life brings. I thank Mrs. Spears, as well as dedicated teachers across the Palmetto State, for their commitment to providing our young people with the tools they need to reach their maximum potential. Take Care."



Andre Bauer
Lt. Governor

"As a young, energetic boy in the third grade at Irmo Elementary, Harriet Ward gave me a sense of direction and was vitally interested in seeing me succeed. Anyone

who knew me would agree that I had boundless energy. Mrs. Ward saw potential there and creatively and positively channeled that energy. Harriet Ward is one of the best teachers I had. She cared about each one of her students because we were individually her children."



Mark Hammond
Secretary of State

"I have nothing but fond memories of the sixth grade and Mrs. Lowman at Lincoln Middle School in Spartanburg. It was 1976, our country's Bicentennial

year, when we discussed the tremendous impact our founding fathers had on this country and the challenges they faced forming a new nation. The class enjoyed the discussion so much that Mrs. Lowman organized a class trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. My parents served as chaperones for the trip and to this day we still reminisce about the places we visited and the things we learned. I believe Mrs. Lowman's interest in civics and love of teaching were a tremendous influence on me, as I later received a degree in Political Science from Newberry College. Simply put, she enjoyed her job and made education fun for all."



Inez Tenenbaum
Supt. of Education

"Without a doubt, my favorite teacher and the person who made the biggest impact in my life was my mother, Bernice Moore. My mother also was my fifth-

grade teacher in our small school in Pineview, Ga. She loved teaching (taught for more than 20 years), set high expectations, was very fair and orderly, and was totally committed to making sure you understood the subject matter. She treated me like any other student in her

class and when school ended, she became my mother and did not bring her work home. She was the best!"

United States Congress

Representative Joe Wilson

"I was fortunate in every grade attending the public schools of downtown Charleston to have dedicated teachers, but I will always be grateful for Sara Bookhart. As Social Studies teacher at the High School of Charleston, she stimulated lively discussion, encouraged involvement, and is directly responsible for inspiring me to public service."

South Carolina Senate



Senator Thomas Alexander

"Mrs. Martha Hedden, a high school teacher, was my favorite teacher. She was a very devoted and dedicated teacher who inspired me in my work and to be all I

could be in school and life. She saw your potential and believed in you. I was very fortunate to have her as a teacher who motivated me. I appreciate her."



Senator Ronnie Cromer

"Mrs. Marie S. Huggins, my first grade teacher, loved her profession. She taught reading by phonics which has helped me tremendously throughout life. I feel Mrs. Huggins provided me with

the foundation I needed to be successful in life."



Senator John Drummond Senate President *Pro Tempore Emeritus*

"I graduated from the public school in Ninety Six, and there were two favorite teachers I will always remember. Ms.

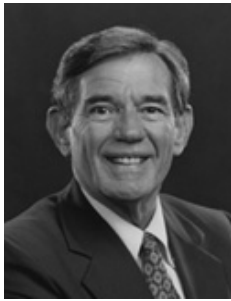
Bell was my 5th grade teacher, who was very fond of me, and I learned so much from her. My first grade teacher was Mrs. John Durst, who is the late grandmother of John Durst of Columbia, who has been involved in politics and was a former employee of Lt. Governor Brantley Harvey. Mrs. Durst would call me John D., telling me that this name stood for John D. Rockefeller and that I reminded her of him! She is the teacher who gave me that extra 'push' and was so supportive, and without her help, I don't know if I would have finished high school. Mrs. Durst recently passed away after celebrating her 100th birthday. I attended this celebration, and she bragged at that time that she remembered me always bringing her an apple to school. She also boasted how proud she was of me and my accomplishments. A reporter who was also at her birthday celebration asked Mrs. Durst what contributed to the longevity of her life. She looked at him and replied, 'breathing in and breathing out!!' I will never forget her."



Senator Wes Hayes

"In the third grade, I started having an interest in attending the United States Military Academy at West Point. My third grade teacher, Mrs. Hoke, encouraged this interest by

calling me 'Brigadier' and allowing me to sign my paper, 'Gen. Hayes.' Because of her encouragement, and many other teachers along the way, I was able to achieve my goal and attend West Point."



Senator Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.

"My most influential teacher was Lucile Upton, my fourth grade teacher at Northbrook #3 Elementary in rural Lincoln County, North Carolina. Although I can't say exactly how she did it, Ms. Upton planted the seeds that made me want to excel and achieve. What I am today is due to her."



Senator Larry A. Martin

"My first-grade teacher, Mrs. Hall, was a favorite of mine. Mrs. Hall was a sweet dear lady who loved her students and inspired them to do their very best. She taught first grade for many years at the rural school I attended. I had many fine teachers after her, but Mrs. Hall helped me and countless others begin school in a positive way that made a profound impact as we moved on through the years."



Senator Thomas L. Moore

"Mrs. Douglas Wise, of Trenton, SC, who taught me in the fifth grade. Mrs. Wise told stories of great South Carolinians and spurred my interest, which later led to my candidacy for and service in the General Assembly. She took such deliberate time with each of us and was a masterful storyteller. I can hear her now telling us that no matter who you are or from where you come, you can be successful."



Senator Glenn Reese

"My ninth grade civics teacher and my eleventh grade government teacher

were responsible for me getting elected to the Senate because they inspired me to get involved 35 years before I ran for office."



Senator J. Verne Smith

"While I loved and respected many of my teachers, my all-time favorite was Ms. Nellie Bolt. She was my junior and senior year English teacher. Besides having a wonderful personality and strong leadership qualities, she taught me exactly what I needed to know for my freshman English class in college. I worked hard to make a 'C' under Ms. Bolt and an 'A' as a freshman in college. Her memory is beautiful and respectful to me. She gave her lifetime teaching young people and she touched thousands of lives in a positive way. She passed away several years ago around the age of 90."

South Carolina House of Representatives



**Doug Smith
Speaker Pro Tempore**

"Without question, the most influential teacher in my life was my 11th grade Herpetology teacher, Major Rhodes. While admittedly, I wasn't much with animals, Major Rhodes taught me that learning didn't stop within the four walls of the classroom. Beyond the walls was where, what you learned, mixed with common sense was applied. Believe it or not, I still hear from Major Rhodes who fudges and says he's proud of me!"



Representative Alan Clemmons

"Mrs. Maddie Blount was my fourth grade teacher at Myrtle Heights Elementary School. Through 19 years of

public schooling, graduate and post graduate studies Mrs. Blount will always stand out as an educator who went beyond what was expected to encourage 'her' children in the classroom to look beyond the bindings of a textbook to challenge their minds with new ideas."



Representative Dan Cooper

"I had many teachers who helped influence my life and I greatly respect each one. The toughest teacher I had was Martha Davis who taught English at Wren High

for many years. Miss Davis taught me 12th grade English and College Prep. She made me work hard and truly challenged me to put forth my best effort."



Representative Ken Clark

"My favorite teacher was Mrs. Fannon in John Adams High School in New York City. I was a child of true, grinding poverty. We were not only poor, frankly, we

were poor, ignorant, and dirty – and no one in my family had ever finished high school. Mrs. Fannon inspired me daily. She realized my humble background and awful situation, yet she saw something in me and praised me and encouraged me every time that I saw her by telling me that I can be anything I want to be, if I worked hard enough to get there. Education is the only exit strategy for poverty!"



Representative Bill Cotty

"My father was an engineer and we moved around the South during my secondary education years. Two teachers changed my life dramatically. A wonderful

lady who taught me first grade had the insight to realize I had far more talent than my school work reflected and suggested my folks have my eyesight tested by a specialist. It turned out I had a somewhat unique vision problem that prevented my eyes from focusing together. After 15 months of weekly eye training sessions, I went from the lowest reading level to the top of my class. Then in junior high in Virginia, a very special lady named Mrs. Powell placed me in an accelerated English and math pilot program. She taught me how to use critical thinking skills in solving problems, real problems, and not just in school. She challenged us to think outside the box!"



Representative William Herbkersman

"I had a professor at USC, Dr. Stanley. Stanley, as we called him, was as unorthodox as could be. He preached doing things different and personified

individualism. I believe it was he who instilled in me that we should be process-oriented as well as goal-oriented, but to expect and embrace the unexpected."



Representative Shirley Hinson

"Mrs. Gloria Barley, who taught at Hanahan High School, was my favorite teacher because she made me feel special and she recognized each student in

her class as an individual. She laughed with us but insisted on the best performance from her students. I knew she was a unique gem to be treasured forever. She died from cancer early in life but left a lasting impression as a very caring human being with high expectations. I miss her."



Representative Chip Huggins

"John Robinson had a very positive influence on my life. He taught fairness and discipline. If someone got out of line, he would describe the manner in

which you acted with real-life situations. If you misbehaved, he would refer to the trash can. If you placed gum under a chair or did something to litter, he would ask if you would do that at home."



Representative Herb Kirsh

"Ms. Hazel Sills, my Algebra teacher in the 7th grade, was a great teacher. There was strict discipline in her class. She went over the problems over and over until you understood

how to do the work. She was all business and that was the type of teacher I needed in the 7th grade. She gave me the desire to work hard, do my homework, and I really learned about algebra. She was definitely an inspiration to me. In fact, I graduated Clover High School as #1 in my class."



Representative Becky R. Martin

"Ms. Ann Luckadoo, who was my daughter's teacher in the first grade at Whitehall Elementary School. She was compassionate and understanding, not only to

average students but also those students who were physically disabled. She was always polite to the students, her fellow teachers and any parents that she came in contact with. She made a difference in many students' lives, giving them the self-confidence they needed to be successful. She is now teaching teachers on how to work with special students."



Representative Edward "Ted" H. Pitts, Jr.

"Mrs. Barker, of Lexington High School, taught me Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry throughout high school. She was tough. I am not even sure she liked me

but she made me work and learn subjects that I had no interest in. She was a great teacher."



Representative Michael A. Pitts

"All of my teachers at Hickory Tavern School in Laurens County were special to me. If I had to choose one, it would be my first grade teacher, Ms. Aubrey Marler.

She was extremely patient and motivating to a large group of students - there were 34 of us - who had never been to school before. She not only taught us to read, write and learn basic math, she was compassionate. I still remember her remarks that out of our class could come presidents, senators, congressman, scientists, doctors and lawyers. She fully encouraged each of us to shoot for the stars and made us believe we could."



Representative Phil Sinclair

"Mrs. Bomar, my third grade teacher, was a small silver-haired woman who, though stern, knew how to motivate us. Each time a student made 100 on a

paper or test, that student got to place a star beside his name on a sheet of poster paper. The student having the most stars each six weeks received the coveted prize of a coca-cola from the teacher's lounge. My pursuit of academic excellence had begun!"



Representative Garry R. Smith

"I can remember several teachers throughout my life that had a profound impact upon my life. Sister Bernadette in kindergarten, Mrs. Ergle in fifth grade,

Mrs. Rutland in eleventh grade, and Mrs. Knight in twelfth grade, had a great impact on me at various times in my life. I think that the thing that set these teachers apart was their caring for me as an individual. These were teachers who gave freely of themselves and were not just getting a paycheck."

Education Oversight Committee



**Bob Staton
Chairman, EOC**

"I had a lot of good teachers but the one who had the biggest impact in my life was my aunt, Elsie Boyce, who was a teacher and later became a high school

principal. Aunt Elsie always instilled in me a sense of responsibility not just for myself but to help others as well. She never failed to see in me the potential that I couldn't see or wanted to believe. She pushed me to reach beyond my own horizon and I will always be grateful."



**Traci Young Cooper
Educator**

"In Madame Hall's French class it didn't matter that many of us lacked the money or means to ever travel abroad to study French. She passionately

and creatively brought the French language and rich culture alive during her daily instruction. Blending an array of teaching styles, all her students developed a love for foreign language

and a deep appreciation for diversity. As her product, I dream, I relish, I embrace the lives and languages of lands near and far."



**Karen Iacovelli
Business Appointee**

"He would strut into the classroom like a military drum majorette. His students froze with attention. Dick Sweezey was a master of the

English language, and every student at Northport High during the 1960's lucky enough to have taken one of his classes, felt a lifelong impact for his love of literature. He was a small-ish man, but Herculean in his ability to demonstrate the force of Shakespeare, Chaucer, Wordsworth or Milton. He demanded that we use our imaginations to create new literature, utilizing the tools of perfectly constructed sentences and flawless spelling.

Dick Sweezey was passionate about the English language, combining it with history, using the classroom as theatre, while we strutted and fretted our own hour on the stage. The results of Dick's excellence were a school that earned a national reputation for theatre production under his direction, and students who became theatre, television and literary champions. He was the best: heroic and unforgettable. I can still hear his voice, and his presence in my life has endured 40 years. "



**Susan Marlowe
Educator**

"My great aunt, Dr. Inez Clark Eddings, was a wonderful teacher and advocate of public school education in South Carolina in the early 1960s. She

unsuccessfully ran for SC State Superintendent of Education during those years, but remained active in the educational process with assignments in Atlanta and Washington. Aunt Inez places a high value on the importance of

education for all children and worked hard within the system to help make good SC schools a reality."



C. Alex Martin
Vice-Chairman, Educator

My favorite teacher would have to be my wife, Ann. She has impacted many students as a teacher, our two children as a role model, and even me. I have

been her biggest challenge. She has to tolerate my disruptions every day. It is kind of neat to have a lifelong crush on your teacher!

"Famous" South Carolina Faces

William Baldwin
Author

"I attended Clemson Graduate School in English and had at least a half dozen excellent teachers, men and women who instilled in me not only a knowledge of literature but a love of it, as well. It's difficult to pick just one, but Mark Steadman had the biggest impact. Besides being my thesis advisor, Mark taught me both Contemporary and American Literature and introduced me to Faulkner, Kafka, and Nathaniel West and many, many more. I'm certain I was a very unpromising student - disruptive, poorly prepared, and tardy. I made ungentlemanly B's while most around me were receiving A's. But an ever-patient Mark saw something there and sent me out into the often uncaring and calamitous world with a solid grounding in modern literature's basics and a belief that I could and would become a writer. Thank you, Mark. Thank you, Clemson.



Tommy Bowden
Head Football Coach,
Clemson University

"My favorite teacher was Angelo Viani, Shop Teacher, at Morgantown High School (Morgantown, West Virginia). He had a great rapport with his students and was always positive. He promoted self-esteem and confidence at an unstable time in a lot of teenagers' lives."



Charles M. Duke, Jr.
Astronaut - Apollo 16

"My favorite teacher was Gladys Robinson. She was an encourager who exhorted us to do our best academically. Through her encouragement I learned the importance of studying hard and setting goals."



Walter Edgar
Author/historian

"My favorite teacher was my seventh-grade history teacher, Caldwell Delaney. His classroom was lined with cabinets he had filled with artifacts from the past that he would bring out at the appropriate time and place on his battered wooden desk. He would insist that we come up and examine them. Time and time again he would tell us that history was everywhere around us, that we should be observant, and that we should always ask questions. Through his gentle persuasion, Caldwell Delaney taught me that history was more than just dry words in a textbook - history should be fun. It is a lesson that I have never forgotten."



Alex English
Former Professional
Athlete/Basketball Coach

"That teacher for me was Mrs. Bolden who was the librarian at Dreher High School. She was the mother of Astronaut Charles Bolden.

She is now deceased. She would always let me sit in the library and read as long as I wanted to."



Jonathan Green
Artist

"Mr. Grant, who taught Agriculture Studies at the Beaufort High School in the 1970's greatly enhanced my love of nature and sensitivity to rural

communities. In his quiet and humble manner he was accessible to all of the students. His teaching style stressed learning by doing and helped me internalize a love for the earth and the environment. His genuine warmth and love of teaching was most comforting during school integration when many of us were threatened with a loss of community, a sense of belonging and social support systems."

Dianne Johnson
Author / Teacher

"My sixth grade teacher, Miss Carol Johnson, has been one of the people, outside of my immediate family, who has influenced my life most profoundly. She took us on 36 field trips, screened 117 films (I still have my notebook of responses), and required us to write creatively every week. Some might have called her an 'old maid.' But she was an early example in my life of how a woman can claim the world and its wonders as her own. It would please her that I am now a teacher and writer."



George Dean Johnson, Jr.
Entrepreneur

"The late Dr. Lewis P. Jones, Professor of History at Wofford College, was my favorite teacher. He instilled in me a deep appreciation of history, its teachings, and

made history come alive. His lectures were brilliant and enthralled all who heard them. He had an incredible influence because he exhibited in his life the virtues to which all should aspire. He possessed humility, kindness, a tremendous intellect, and he challenged our minds and brought out the best in all of his students. I've been blessed with many great teachers, but none like Dr. Lewis P. Jones."



Andie McDowell
Actress

"I thought of many wonderful teachers who inspired me or made me feel appreciated from my small town, Gaffney, SC. I do believe teachers do not get the credit or appreciation they

deserve. However, my favorite teacher happened to be my mother. My mother was an enthusiastic and loving music teacher. She was very proud of her students and indeed, they were very talented and lovely students. It was a time in our country, especially in the South, where people were living in a very shallow mindset. The students at my mother's school took great joy in learning from my mother. Color was not an issue from the students or my mother. So you see, though many of my teachers taught me well, my mother's lessons helped me see people for who they are...not their color."



David Odom
Head Basketball Coach,
USC Gamecocks

"I was one of the fortunate few. I grew up in Goldsboro, NC, a small town close the ocean. As I think about my life, I am proud to say that I never

had a bad teacher or a bad coach. I owe so much to each one. Each teacher, each coach made a lasting impression on me even to this day and this time in my life. How can I possibly ever thank them? Perhaps by caring for my players and being there for them just as my teachers were for me. That's a high standard but one I must try to reach."



Bill Pinckney
Artist, singer, songwriter,
business leader and co-
founder of The Original
Drifters

"The teachers that made the biggest impact on me were Mr. Titus Hastie and Mr. C.B.

Bracey. Mr. Hastie taught me how to hold a baseball and he recognized my talents as a comedian, dancer, and singer early on. He told me, 'you will be something one day.' Both of these people were great teachers and also friends. Like family, they taught me well."



Richard W. Riley
Former Governor and
US Secretary of
Education

"I had dozens of favorite teachers and it is difficult to single out one. One of my favorite teachers was

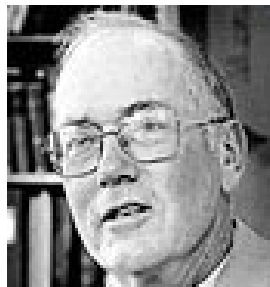
Miss Mary Wilder who died a couple of years ago in a Laurens Retirement Home. She taught me English Literature at Greenwood Senior High School and caused me to have a lifelong love of Shakespeare and Milton and all the greats. She gave life to literature and poetry."



Marva A. Smalls
Entertainment Executive

"One of my favorite teachers was the late State Senator Frank Gilbert who served as guidance counselor at Wilson High School in Florence.

Senator Gilbert was a hands-on guidance counselor. He took an interest in what I was doing both on and off the school grounds. He encouraged me not to settle for what I was being taught at school alone, but to pursue other materials that would provide a deeper understanding of the subject. He stressed that a well-rounded individual should connect to extra-curricular activities both at school and in the community. He personally connected me to outside organizations that enabled me to hone my leadership skills and develop an understanding of how integrated processes work. I believe my passion for community service and making a difference began under his tutelage."



Professor Charles H. Townes
Scientist - Physicist
and Astronomer

"Mathematics became fascinating to me in high school because of the interesting teacher who

made it fun and challenging. I also was much influenced by the high school shop course, and liked to make things work. The personal and the intellectual quality of my teachers in all subjects - Latin, English, and History - and later, in college, Philosophy, French, German, Biology, Mathematics, and Physics were all important to my interest in becoming a scientist and university professor. I still feel their influence and am very grateful."



**Irene Trowell-Harris, EdD,
RN, Major Gen, USAF,
Retired**

**Director, Center for
Women Veterans**

"My elementary school teacher, Hazel J. Cadle, was my favorite teacher. I

admired her because she was very professional, kind, gave individual attention to each student, and was a superb role model. Ms. Cadle's influence was instrumental in my earning a masters from Yale, doctorate from Columbia, promotion to major general in the Air Force/Air National Guard, earning silver flight nurse wings, and becoming a White House political appointee at the Department of Veterans Affairs. She provided the educational bridge for me from the cotton field to senior executive. "



**Leo Twiggs,
Artist (Medium: Batik on
cotton)**

"Arthur Rose was my first art teacher and the first artist I ever met. He was innovative, improvisational and creative. He made art

out of anything, scrap metal, screen wire, sand. Sometimes he danced while he painted. He would say 'To be an artist you have to be a little crazy.' He was like the TV detective Columbo. We thought we were having fun while he was teaching us. When people ask me why I decided to paint with wax and dyes instead of traditional media, I remember Arthur Rose."



**Vanna White
"Wheel of Fortune"
and Entrepreneur**

"My first grade teacher was my favorite, Mrs. Wagoner. She taught me the alphabet!"